Comprehensive Event Overview

I. The Enlightenment and Age of Revolutions (1750–1850)

- **Publication of *Two Treatises on Government* (1690)**: John Locke argued that all men are born with **natural rights** (life, liberty, property) and that the government exists through a "natural contract" to protect these rights.
- **The Seven Years War (1756–1763)**: Recognized as the world's first global conflict, it saw Great Britain seize French colonies in India and Canada but left Britain in massive debt, leading to the taxation of American colonists.
- **Publication of *The Social Contract* (1762)**: Jean-Jacques Rousseau argued that a contract exists where people give up certain freedoms for protection, and the "General Will" of the population should make the laws.
- **The Proclamation of 1763**: King George III forbade American colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains, reneging on land grants promised for service in the Seven Years War.
- **The American Revolution (1776–1783)**: Sparked by "taxation without representation" and Enlightenment ideals, it led to the creation of the first modern constitutional republic.
- **The French Revolution (1789–1799)**: Driven by the Third Estate’s resentment of the clergy and nobility, it overthrew the absolute monarchy and established a republic, though it descended into the **Reign of Terror** in 1792.
- **The Haitian Revolution (1792–1804)**: Led by **Toussaint Louverture**, this was the only successful slave revolt in history, debunking theories of African inferiority and establishing an independent state.
- **Napoleon’s Coup d’état (1799)**: General Napoleon Bonaparte overthrew the French Directory, eventually crowning himself Emperor and spreading Enlightenment principles via the **Napoleonic Code**.
- **The Congress of Vienna (1815)**: Following Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, European powers met to restore royal families and establish a **Balance of Power** to prevent future French aggression.

- **Latin American Revolutions (1819–1830)**: Led by **Simon Bolivar** and **Jose de San Martin**, nationalist forces liberated South America from a weakened Spain, creating states like Gran Colombia.

II. The Industrial Revolution and Imperialism (1750–1914)

- **Invention of the Spinning Jenny (1764)** and **Steam Engine (1775)**: These innovations launched the first Industrial Revolution by mechanizing production and utilizing coal for high power.
- **The Opium Wars (1839–1842, 1856–1860)**: Britain defeated the Qing Dynasty to force China to open its markets to the addictive drug opium, leading to the creation of foreign "Spheres of Influence".
- **The Tanzimat Reforms (1839–1876)**: An Ottoman effort to form a unified national identity by granting civil liberties to non-Muslims; it ultimately failed to stop nationalist movements in the Balkans.
- **The Taiping Rebellion (1850–1864)**: A religiously inspired peasant revolt in China that killed 30 million people and severely weakened the Qing Dynasty.
- **The Meiji Restoration (1868)**: Japan overthrew the Shogunate and restored the Emperor, embarking on a rapid modernization program to mimic Western science, military, and economics.
- **The Berlin Conference (1884)**: Organized by Otto von Bismarck, European powers divided Africa among themselves for raw materials, ignoring native boundaries.
- **The Spanish-American War (1898)**: The U.S. defeated a declining Spain, acquiring Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, and establishing the **Platt Amendment** to intervene in Cuba.
- **The Boxer Rebellion (1899–1901)**: A Chinese uprising against foreign "intruders" that was violently suppressed by a joint coalition of Western and Japanese forces.

III. Global Conflict and the World Wars (1914–1945)

- **World War I (1914–1918)**: Sparked by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, it introduced **trench warfare** and **Total War**, where entire populations were mobilized for the effort.

- **The Russian/Bolshevik Revolution (1917)**: Driven by the slogan "Peace, Land, and Bread," Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks overthrew the Tsar to establish the first communist state, the USSR.
- **The Treaty of Versailles (1919)**: Ended WWI but humiliated Germany by forcing it to take full blame and pay $400 billion (in today's money) in reparations.
- **The Great Depression (1929–1939)**: Triggered by the **Stock Market Crash**, it led to global bank failures, mass unemployment, and increased government intervention like FDR's **New Deal**.
- **Holodomor (1932–1933)**: A man-made famine caused by Joseph Stalin’s **agricultural collectivization** in Ukraine, resulting in millions of deaths.
- **The Nuremberg Laws (1935)**: Nazi legislation that stripped Jewish people of citizenship and forbade intermarriage, marking the start of systemic persecution.
- **World War II (1939–1945)**: Began with the invasion of Poland; characterized by **Blitzkrieg** tactics and the **Holocaust**, the systemic murder of 6 million Jews and 5 million others.
- **The Pearl Harbor Attack (December 7, 1941)**: A Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Navy that brought the United States into WWII.
- **Battle of Stalingrad (1942–1943)**: A major turning point in Europe where the Soviet Union stopped the German advance.
- **Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (August 1945)**: The U.S. used nuclear weapons to force a Japanese surrender, ending the war and establishing the U.S. as a world power.

IV. The Cold War and the Modern Era (1945–Present)

- **The Partition of India (1947)**: India was split into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan, leading to the world's largest voluntary migration.
- **The Truman Doctrine (1947)**: A U.S. policy to "contain" communism by providing aid to anti-communist forces globally.
- **The Marshall Plan (1948)**: A U.S. program providing billions in grants to help Western Europe rebuild after WWII and prevent the spread of communism.

- **Creation of Israel (1948)**: A Jewish homeland was established in Palestine, leading to immediate invasion by neighboring Arab states and long-term conflict.
- **The Chinese Communist Revolution (1949)**: Mao Zedong's victory over the Nationalists led to the creation of the People's Republic of China.
- **The Great Leap Forward (1950s–1960s)**: Mao's attempt to industrialize China through peasant labor, which resulted in 20–50 million deaths from starvation.
- **The Vietnam War (1955–1975)**: A Cold War proxy conflict where the U.S. unsuccessfully attempted to prevent North Vietnam from unifying the country under communism.
- **The Civil Rights Act of 1964**: U.S. legislation that guaranteed legal equality for all groups, spurred by non-violent protest movements led by Martin Luther King Jr..
- **The Counter-Culture Protests of 1968**: Global student and worker protests that challenged the status quo, capitalism, and imperialism.
- **The Tiananmen Square Massacre (1989)**: A military crackdown on student-led democratic protests in Beijing, confirming that China remained an authoritarian state despite economic reforms.
- **The Formation of the European Union (1993)** and **WTO (1994)**: Key milestones in **Globalization**, allowing for the free movement of goods, labor, and currency across borders.